Modernization of ports

1212. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government proposes to take for modernizing Indian ports to make them world-class; and

(b) the extent of expenditure proposed to the incurred towards this objective during 2008-09 and the following two financial years during the Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) With the objective to upgrade and modernize port infrastructure in India to enable it to benchmark its performance against global standards, a National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) has been formulated by the Department of Shipping. Under the programme, specific projects to be taken up for implementation over a definite period have been identified. Total investment involved is Rs. 100339.00 crores. Out of this, Rs. 55800.00 crores is for the Port Sector. Of the investment proposed in the Port Sector, Rs. 34505.00 crores is expected from private sector mainly for commercially viable projects like development/operation of berths, terminals etc. Public funds will be concentrated for creation of common user infrastructure facilities. In the Major Ports 276 projects covering the entire gamut of activities, namely, construction/upgradation of berths, deepening of channels, rail-road connectivity projects, equipment upgradation/modernization schemes and other related schemes for creation of back-up facilities have been identified for inclusion in the programme.

(b) Expenditure details to be incurred for NMDP projects are not compiled year-wise. These projects, to be taken up over a period up to 2011-12 will be implemented in phases. The Phase-I covering the period from 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2009 would entail expenditure to the tune of Rs. 31970.85 crore. The Phase-II covering the period beyond Phase-I and up to 2011-12 would have projects costing Rs. 23832.88 crores. During 2008-09, the expenditure proposed to be incurred on plan projects of Major Ports is Rs. 1386.52 crores.

NH projects in Tamil Nadu

1213. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Highway Projects undertaken by the Union Government in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years and in current year;

(b) the present status of each of the same, project-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and spent during the above period; and

(d) the time by when the above projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 173 no. of National Highways Projects including those under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) at an estimated cost of

Rs. 11680 crore have been undertaken by the Government in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years and 23 no. of projects with estimated cost of Rs. 204.07 crore have been undertaken in current year. Out of these, 71 no. of projects have been completed and the balance projects are at various stages of implementation.

(c) For the projects being implemented by NHAI including NHDP, funds are not allocated State-wise. The expenditure incurred by NHAI on National Highways Development Project and other projects during the last three years including current year is Rs. 7302.34 crore. Amount allocated and expenditure incurred for the NH projects implemented by Government of Tamil Nadu during last three years are Rs. 265.63 crore and Rs. 255.68 crore respectively and those for the current year are Rs. 105.81 crore and Rs. 84.59 crore respectively.

(d) The projects in progress are at various stages of implementation and likely to be completed in three years time.

Damage to NHs in Orissa

1214. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about a number of National Highways getting affected during flood or heavy rainy seasons every year in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons for Government not taking any measures and corrective action to avoid these damages which is taking place almost every year during rainy seasons;

(c) if so, the number of National Highways badly damaged in Orissa at present; and

(d) if so, whether Government would take fast reconstructive measures to avoid inconvenience to general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken necessary measures to rectify the damages and to keep the National Highways in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(c) and (d) During the current year flood, 14 National Highways in an aggregate length of 1924.50 km have been damaged. The Government has already taken steps to repair the damages of National Highways stretches immediately to avoid inconvenience to the general public.

India's position in road accident death figures

1215. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: